



Final Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

May 8, 2013

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, Seattle

1634 19th Avenue, Seattle WA 98122

HDC members present:

Sofia Aragon
 Marietta Bobba
 Gail Brandt
 Nora Coronado
 Kim Eads
 Jonathan Green
 Winona Hollins-Hauge

Diane Klontz
 Steve Kutz
 Frankie Manning
 Emma Medicine White Crow
 Jan Olmstead
 Millie Piazza
 Gwendolyn Shepherd

HDC members absent:

Vazaskia Caldwell

HDC Staff present:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director
 Timothy Grisham, Communications Consultant
 Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Yris Lance, Community Relations Liaison
 Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant

Guests and Other Participants:

Aphrodyi Antoine, Health Resources and
 Services Administration
 Sarah Butzine, Office of Superintendent of
 Public Instruction (on behalf of Council
 Member Greg Williamson)
 Sheila Capestany, Open Arms Perinatal Services
 Stella Chao, Public Health Seattle and King
 County
 Marissa Chávez, Children's Alliance
 Pam Cowley, Health Benefit Exchange
 Siniva Driggers, Samoan Nurses Organization
 of Washington
 Char Goodreau, Department of Early Learning
 Linn Gould, Just Health Action

Devon Love, Center for MultiCultural Health
 Annie Moffat, Open Arms Perinatal Services
 Janelle Okorogu, Center for MultiCultural
 Health
 Christina Peters, Children's Alliance
 Jesus Reyna, Department of Health and Human
 Services Office of Minority Health
 Glenda Roberts, OUI Works
 Michelle Sarju, Open Arms Perinatal Services
 and Equal Start Coalition
 Stephanie Thomas-Murphy, Mary Mahoney
 Professional Nurses Organization
 Rosa Young, Public Member

Emma Medicine White Crow, Council Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve May 8, 2013 agenda

Motion/Second: Frankie Manning/Winona Hollins-Hauge. Approved unanimously.

2. ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 13 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: February 13, 2013 minutes

Motion/Second: Diane Klontz/Frankie Manning. Approved unanimously.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, referred Council members to three letters of support under Tab 3. She introduced Timothy Grisham, Communications Consultant to the Washington State Board of Health and Council. She introduced Nora Coronado, who will be representing the Commission on Hispanic Affairs on the Council. Ms. Hoff acknowledged Dr. Diana Lindner for her 5 years of service on the Council and said Dr. Lindner would continue to serve as the alternate. She said Sofia Aragon, who was serving as the alternate representative for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs would now be serving as the primary representative.

4. STATE PARTNERSHIP GRANT UPDATE

Yris Lance, Council Staff, provided an update on the Council's federal grant (see presentation on file under Tab 4). She highlighted activities from the last quarter, including activities from the Community Outreach Roundtable, Interagency LEP Workgroup, and partnership work with the racial/ethnic commissions and the American Indian Health Commission. Winona Hollins-Hauge, Council Member, suggested Council members consider attending Kidney Health Fest to promote state services and activities in the community. She said more than 600 people of color attend each year – this year's event is scheduled for June 22. She said that April was National Minority Health Month and the Commission on African American Affairs and the Council collaborated with the UW Health Promotion Research Center, the Central Area Senior Center, and others to organize a teleforum on oral health and health disparities. Winona announced that she recently received three awards on behalf of the Council and the Commission. Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair, asked about the age of the students participating in the Latino Mentorship Program. Ms. Lance said the students were at the University of Washington studying health-related fields. Sarah Butzine, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, asked for the date for the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth Fitness Day. Ms. Lance said they did not have a date yet but it is usually in July. Stephen Kutz, Council Member, said the Cowlitz Tribe has an annual health walk in September and he offered to share more information.

5. DISCUSSION—IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND HAZARDS RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced the agenda item and referred members to the memo under Tab 5. Ms. Hoff said the memo accompanied three agenda items. She said the next action plan update is due by the end of June 2013 and the Council agreed to focus the update on the implementation of the 2012 action plan. She said during this agenda item, we would hear updates from Council members about the work their respective agencies are doing to implement the environmental exposures and hazards recommendations. She reminded Council members that the environmental exposures and hazards recommendations focused on environmental justice and

community engagement and included activities that all agencies could implement. She referred Council members to the status report document and a separate document with updates from the Health Care Authority behind Tab 5. As Ms. Hoff reviewed the implementation document, which contained updates received prior to the meeting, Council members provided additional updates on work from their agencies, including the following:

- The Department of Social and Health Services' cultural competency policy.
- Efforts to expand the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program at the Department of Early Learning.
- Hiring of a community liaison at the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Yakima office.
- Farmworker education and organic food programs within WSDA.
- Family Housing Initiative within the Department of Commerce and DSHS.
- Efforts to reduce the use of chemicals at the Department of Ecology (using no/low VOC products and providing guidelines for using the least toxic product).
- The Department of Ecology's outreach efforts with the Commission on Hispanic Affairs to provide information to the Spanish-speaking community via Spanish language radio.
- The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs providing a forum for the community to provide comment on environmental issues at a recent CAPAA board meeting.
- The Commission on African American Affairs held a forum on justice and the corrections system and heard testimony from youth related to disproportionality.

6. BRIEFING—EARLY ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

Chair Medicine White Crow welcomed Char Goodreau and thanked her for attending to provide a briefing on the Early Achievers Program. Jonathan Green, Council Member, said the 2012 action plan includes three recommendations to reduce poverty and the impacts of poverty on health disparities. He said one of those recommendations was related to increasing capacity for culturally and linguistically competent early learning services. He said at the last meeting he provided some information on some of the Department's workforce development efforts within the Quality Rating and Improvement System – Washington's Early Achievers Program. He said that today he invited his colleague Char Goodreau to provide more information about the program.

Char Goodreau, QRIS Administrator at the Department of Early Learning, provided a presentation on the Early Achiever's Program (on file under Tab 6). The program identifies evidence-based programs that are known to help children. The rating is used to let providers know where they fall on a quality continuum and provides information to parents. Chair Medicine White Crow thanked Ms. Goodreau for her presentation. She said we were running behind schedule and asked Council members to send questions to staff.

The Council recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

7. BRIEFING—HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

Chair Medicine White Crow introduced Pam Cowley, Outreach Manager for the Health Benefit Exchange. Pam shared an overview of the impact of the Affordable Care Act; the development of the Exchange; and activities to ensure outreach, education, and enrollment of consumers (on file under Tab 7). Highlights included discussion of the in-person assister program, coverage options available through the Exchange, roles and responsibilities of the Outreach Workgroup and Health Equity Technical Advisory Committee, and the development of a language access plan. Chair Medicine White Crow thanked Ms. Cowley for her presentation and said because the meeting was

still running behind schedule, she would again ask Council members to follow up with staff with any questions.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Siniva Driggers, Samoan Nurses Organization of Washington, shared some of the barriers that the people she serves face with access to care. Many are undocumented and she has concerns about how they will receive the health care they need. She said she is a navigator for people with chronic health conditions and access to care is one of the barriers she sees for those she serves.

Glenda Roberts, Chairman of OUI Works, said her organization focuses on slowing the progression of kidney disease and ensuring organ donor services. She said Native Americans have the highest death rate of people on dialysis because they are less likely to receive the transplants they need to survive. She said this is due in part to having less access to care and partly because of the comorbidities Native Americans often suffer from. She is interested in starting a program for living organ donation. She also shared some of her personal story with organ donation.

Linn Gould, Just Health Action, provided information on the Duwamish Valley Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis, which documents health disparities and higher rates of contamination in the 98108 zip code. She also shared information about the health impact assessment on the Duwamish, which was the first time a Health Impact Assessment was completed on a Superfund site. She said some communities who fish the Duwamish are more likely to experience adverse health effects and how inequities will actually increase as a result of cleanup plans.

Devon Love, Center for Multicultural Health, provided an update on the youth project related to healthy eating and active living. She said the Skyway community now has a grocery store. She expressed support for the Council to continue to work on areas where disparities disproportionately affect communities of color such as diabetes, heart disease, breast cancer, infant mortality, sudden infant death syndrome, and kidney disease as well as factors such as smoking cessation, access to nutritious food, and opportunities for physical activity. She said infant mortality rates have decreased in the nation but remain high in King County. She shared some of the projects the Center for MultiCultural Health was working on including providing support for the Kidney Health Fest. She talked about the Equal Start Community Coalition and its work to bring healthy birth outcomes to all communities. Member Hollins-Hauge asked about a grant the Center for MultiCultural Health received and Ms. Love said the project was focused on diabetes prevention classes.

Michelle Sarju, Open Arms Perinatal Services and Equal Start Coalition, introduced herself and said she also serves on the Navigator Technical Advisory Committee for the Health Benefit Exchange. She encouraged the Council to adopt infant mortality as a priority. She said that even when children at risk of infant mortality survive, they often still have health problems. She also provided comments about the Early Achievers Program. She said marginalized and oppressed communities want equal childcare in their communities, but the providers need to be able to access funds to improve their programs. She said it is hard to get past a certain level in the Early Achievers Program. As an example, she said the Seed Program provided grants to childcare providers to purchase equipment to help them progress through the quality rating levels. She said families who live in marginalized communities have less access to care because providers are going out of business. She said we need to help those providers build their infrastructure so they can get the resources they need to increase their rating level.

Stephanie Thomas-Murphy, MaryMahoney Professional Nurses Association and Delta Sigma Theta, introduced herself and said that health disparities are a priority for Mary Mahoney. She said they were focused on higher education and increasing the number of health care providers of color as a way of addressing health disparities.

Jesus Reyna, Office of Minority Health in Region X, introduced himself and said he wanted to offer any support from his office that he could. Member Hollins-Hauge suggested that the Region X office could assist by recruiting National-level speakers to Washington State.

9. DISCUSSION—PRIORITY HEALTH TOPICS

Chair Medicine White Crow referred Council members to the memo under Tab 9 and said the Council is at a place in its work where it needs to start selecting new priorities. Ms. Hoff reviewed the processes the Council used to select priority health topics for the 2010 and 2012 action plans. Following that, Ms. Lance shared a summary of community input into new priorities (staff presentation on file under Tab 9).

Member Hollins-Hauge thanked Ms. Lance for her outreach work in the community and for sharing the input she received. Vice Chair Manning said there should still be a focus on women and children. She said infant mortality rates and disparities in this country need to be addressed. She also stressed the importance of having nurses and other health professionals of color and a sustained focus on workforce diversity. Jan Olmstead, alternate Council Member, said the American Indian Health Commission has an interest in addressing adverse childhood experiences. In addition, it has a focus on healthy eating, active living, smoking cessation, maternal infant health particularly home visiting strategies, and early learning. Nora Coronado, Council Members, said she is hearing concerns from the Hispanic/Latino community about chronic illnesses like diabetes, childhood obesity, and asthma. She said the Commission on Hispanic Affairs is focused on education issues such as promoting the Dream Act, early learning, and the education pipeline. Sofia Aragon, Council Member, said there are a lot of topics that have been prioritized in the past that are still relevant today because more work is needed. She said the Council has an opportunity build off current momentum in the state, such as health reform and priorities for the new Governor and agencies.

Member Hollins-Hauge asked for a moment of silence for Willie Austin, health and fitness advocate in underserved communities. She said this year's Kidney Health Fest will be dedicated to Mr. Austin's memory. Chair Medicine White Crow reminded Council members that Mr. Austin walked Council members through exercises during the break at the first Council meeting.

10. STATE POLICY ACTION PLAN—UPDATE ON 2012 RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Medicine White Crow said this is the Council's opportunity to review draft text of the Action Plan Update before it is submitted in June. Ms. Hoff walked Council members through the draft text.

Council Members discussed issues related to health care access. Member Kutz said he was concerned that people receiving health insurance for the first time would have difficulty navigating the system. He said the navigator program is designed to help people sign up for insurance but not to navigate the health care system. Member Hollins-Hauge reiterated the importance of this topic. Kim Eads, Council Member, said an added issue is that providers were now changing the way they communicate with patients and communicating more often over email. Marietta Bobba, Council Member, said the chronic disease self-management program includes a module about how to talk to your doctor. She added that the health home model includes the expectation that a care coordinator

will help assist with patients during doctor visits. Vice Chair Manning said this might be a good topic for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Motion: *The Council approves in concept the draft text of the June 2013 action plan update as submitted on May 8, 2013, directs staff to incorporate changes from today's discussion as necessary, and authorizes the chair to approve the final report for submission to the Governor and Legislature.*

Motion/Second: *Frankie Manning/ Steve Kutz. Approved unanimously.*

Chair Medicine White Crow noted the meeting was behind schedule. Member Hollins-Hauge suggested extending the agenda an extra 15 minutes to have Council Member updates.

Motion: *The Council will extend the meeting agenda by 15 minutes to accommodate Council Member updates.*

Motion/Second: *Winona Hollins-Hauge/ Steve Kutz. Approved unanimously.*

11. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Sarah Butzine, on behalf of Council Member Greg Williamson, invited Council Members to the Learning Connections Summit on May 16 in Seattle. The summit will feature topics on how healthy students learn better. She said the keynote presentations would be videotaped and posted to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's website. She said OSPI partnered with the Department of Health on its recent chronic disease prevention grant, which will build OSPI capacity to support schools in providing health services. OSPI and the Legislature collaborated to support the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. She said applications are out for the next term and they are looking to increase student diversity. She said students met with the Lieutenant Governor to provide input on legislation. She said OSPI reinvigorated its own staff wellness committee to model what they are asking schools to do. One of the topics they will be addressing is the use of chemicals and cleaning products. She finished by providing information on the school nurse corps, which provides increased nursing to schools in rural areas. She said they recently engaged in a pilot project to increase nursing hours for students at risk of incarceration. The results show a big impact as students have increased math and science scores.

Member Green suggested having concentrated time for more in-depth discussion at the next meeting on existing priorities and activities in the state, such as the state's asthma plan. He said it would be good to discuss how we can align our work with what is already happening in our agencies so we do not duplicate efforts.

Member Eads said she would provide the new bio for the Washington State Department of Agriculture's new Director. She suggested including an introduction in the action plan about how Council priorities align with the Governor's priorities.

Gwendolyn Shepherd, Council Member, stressed the need to work together to tackle the tough problems. She said the solutions for addressing health disparities are in the community.

Vice Chair Manning thanked the nurses in the audience for the work they do in honor of nurses week. She also thanked the members of the public for coming and sharing their input.

Millie Piazza, Council Member, challenged the Council to think creatively about how it might leverage the Governor's priorities. She specifically mentioned climate change and how emergencies often affect diverse communities.

Member Hollins-Hauge said we need to fill our vacancy for the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. She thanked staff for their support of recent community activities. She finished her comments by saying we have lost a lot of good community leaders recently and reminded the Council to let people know they are appreciated for the good work they do.

Member Aragon said this has been an interesting and exciting meeting. She appreciates the growth of the Council.

Member Olmstead said she was glad to be here. She said she will be thinking hard about linkages and will be connecting with staff to discuss future collaborative activities.

Diane Klontz, Council Member, referred Council members to the document on the Family Housing Initiative under Tab 11. She said Commerce also works on workforce development and has started a pilot for the TANF population with limited English proficiency related to access to healthcare and barriers to obtaining employment. She said her division manages an asset-building program and they support the Washington BankOn program.

Member Bobba said she hoped to bring issues around cultural competence and health disparities for people with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, and those in the foster care system to the Council for further discussion. She said people with developmental disabilities are less likely to have tests for conditions like diabetes.

Member Kutz said we are heading in the wrong direction regarding youth smoking. He said the State Board of Health convened a panel presentation on youth tobacco with representatives from state and local agencies. He shared some of the recommendations from the panel. He also shared the board's plan to develop a strategy around oral health. He said youth tobacco and oral health are topics that greatly affect communities of color.

Member Coronado said the Commission on Hispanic Affairs is working to develop its partnerships and to increase outreach efforts to Latino communities. She said they are having a meeting in Cheney next weekend, which focus on education issues. She said the Commission has two new members with expertise in economic development and they will have some vacancies in the near future.

Chair Medicine White Crow thanked the public and members for coming. She said the Council is limited without the community's voice and stressed the importance of community engagement.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Medicine White Crow adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.